

CLASS OF 1821

MITCHELL SANFORD.

Died at Brooklyn, March 29, 1861, of congestion of the brain, Hon. Mitchell Sanford, aged 62 years.

Note:-Hon. Mitchell Sanford, formerly of Hudson, died in New York from an attack of neuralgia in the head, terminating in inflammation of the brain. In an hour afterwards a dispatch was received announcing his death. The event caused wide-spread and general expression of regret, for no man practiced at the bar in this vicinity was more endeared to the community than Mr. Sanford.

The Hudsonian
Robert M. Terry

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CLASS OF 1821

MITCHELL SANFORD

Brother of Lyman Sanford, Class of 1831.

Son of Truman and Silence (Tuttle) Sanford.

Born February 24, 1799, Greenville, N. Y.

Died March 29, 1861, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Married September 27, 1823, Sarah Wells, b. January 16, 1804, Middletown, Conn.; died March 12, 1878, Middleburg, N. Y.

Both buried at Greenville, N. Y.

Mr. Sanford was a lawyer.

They had three children:

1. Byron Francis, b. July 29, 1824, Middleburg, N. Y.
d. Sept. 10, 1834, Hartford, Conn.,
buried at Greenville.
2. Marion, b. Oct. 23, 1825, Middleburg; d. April, 1878.
3. Addison, b. Dec. 9, 1827; d. April 25, 1879
m. Laura Porter
Class of 1847, Union College.

The Thomas Sanford Genealogy
Carlton E. Sanford
Rutland, Vt.
1916.

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MITCHELL SANFORD, 1821, of Greenville, N. Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.
(Died: 1861)

1821

Mitchell Sanford

Non-graduate Hamilton College, 1821

Hamilton College Alumni Register, 1812-1922.

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1821 SANFORD, MITCHELL

See: Obituary Sketch in Schoharie Republican, April 11, 1861.

Taken from the Troy Daily Times, April 1, 1861.

1821 MITCHELL SANFORD.

Mitchell Sanford, of Hudson, formerly of this county,
has removed to Troy, and formed a law partnership with
John Pierson.

FROM: Schoharie County
Jan. 15, 1857

UNION COLLEGE ALUMNI RECORD.

- 1 Name in full Mitchell Sanford Class 1821.
- 2 - Born on *Cornwall N.Y. at Feb 24 1799* *Died Mar 29 - 1861*
wife Sarah Wells - B Middletown Conn Jan 16 1804 Died March 12 - 1878
- 3 - Residences before entering college _____
- 4 - Prepared for college at _____
- 5 - Entered _____ (give year, month and class if not
freshman _____ Course _____)
- 6 - Left college _____
(give approximate time of leaving) _____
- 7 - College life _____
 - (a) Fraternity, literary or social organizations of which a member _____
 - b (class officers) _____
 - c (College prizes and honors) _____
- 8 - Study at other institutions after leaving Union (how long and where) _____
- 9 - Degrees (with institutions granting them and dates) _____
- 15 - Relatives (own or wives) at Union (name, relationship and class) _____
- 16 - Parents names in full (with country of ancestry, college, occupation, residence, date of birth, death, and other important facts) *B. Feb 24 1799, D. Mar 29 1861*
(a) father *Jesse T. Gilman (Little)*
Died Mar 1 - 1850 Aged 78 *Died May 23 - 1842 Aged 64*
(b) mother *Gilman, B. Aug 12. 1777 @ Washington Conn*
- 17 - Brothers and sisters name, date of birth and death, college if other than Union)

Alathia, Barnes & King, B Oct 24 1797, D Mar 16 1867
Sarah M. B. Cornwall N.Y. May 26 1803, D Dec 14. 1882
Sherman B. Feb 9 1806, D. Sept 2, 1849
Lyman B. Nov 13, 1811, D Mar 14 1881
Jessie M. B. July 8. 1814
George (My father) B Sept 20 1816 D Jan 29 1869
- 18 - Married *Mary B Sept 27 1819* of _____ on _____
D Oct 31 1900
- 19 - Children (name, date of birth, college if other than Union)

Byron B July 24 1824 D Sept 10 1834
Addison Dec 9 1827 D unknown, Lawyer of N.Y city
Marion Oct 29 1825 D Apr 1878

- 20 - Business and professional career, business or professional connections and positions held (give each in order with dates when held and place)

Lawyer

- 21 - Public positions held in civil life (with dates) include such positions as trustee, director, vestryman, etc.

- 22 - Military history and titles (with dates)

- 23 - Professional and scientific organizations of which a member.

- 24 - Social, civic, and literary organizations of which a member

- 25 - Literary productions (with date of publication and name of publisher)

- 26 - Religious denomination

- 27 - Political preference

- 29 - Other facts or remarks

Place of death *Brooklyn N Y*

Date of death *Mar 29 1861*

Considered a very successful criminal lawyer

*Geo. Sanford
115 N. Second St
Alhambra Calif*



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ALBANY, N. Y.

IN REPLYING REFER TO

January 22, 1931.

Mr J. H. Brown,
No 27 West Erie St.,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Mr Brown:-

I enclose the paper sent me from Calif. and as the information was furnished by a man 85 years of age in his own hand writing, I consider he did fairly well. I learn that Mitchell Sanford was born at Greenville, and prepared for Union at Greenville Academy. Some of the extracts from a letter accompanying the questionnaire may prove of interest.

Alhambra, Calif. Jan 16, 1931.

Mr John H. Sanford,
Dear Cousin John:-

"Referring to your letter of 1/12-31 regarding Mitchell Sanford, I know of no one who could give you any information of his college days. His brothers and sisters are all dead, however I will fill out the paper the best I can.

The winter of 1860 and 1861 I spent at his home, corner of Franklin and Quincy Sts, Brooklyn, N. Y., and was there at the time of his death. I saw little of him as his profession took him from home a great deal. He had offices in Brooklyn and Wall St., New York, and I was often sent with messages to them. I think I am the oldest Sanford of the family living, being nearly 85. If you have the Sanfords geneology published in 1911 at Potsdam etc. "

Regret that I am unable to complete the information requested.

Truly yours,

John H. Sanford



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ALBANY, N. Y.

IN REPLYING REFER TO

Altamont, N. Y., Jan 18, 1931.

Mr J. R. Brown,
27 West Erie St.,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Mr Brown:-

Returning the enclosed list as I am unable to supply any information. A few years ago I received a number of letters from the Secretary of The Sanford Association of America. If they have been retained they are in my files at Greenville. I suggest that you address a letter to Mrs. Sanford, Secretary Sanford Association of America, Pottsdam, N. Y. and it might bring results.

Received a reply from the Attorney at New Haven but he is unable to supply information regarding Mitchell Sanford. However, he states that his Grandfather - Hon. Lyman Sanford, B. A., was a member of the class of 1831. His daughter, Mrs Edward D. Ronan, resides at No 22 Willett St., Albany. If the record of Lyman is not complete doubtless she can furnish it, and perhaps some light regarding Mitchell. As she is about 80 years of age, doubtless a personal talk would be better than by telephone. If you desire I will try and see her.

Expect a reply from my Calif. letter within a few days and will again write you. ✓

Truly yours,

John W. Sanford



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ALBANY, N. Y.

IN REPLYING REFER TO

TRUMAN SANFORD, ESQ.

"a gentleman-farmer, and for many years a justice of the peace. No ordinary man was Mr Sanford. Born in Litchfield, Ct., three years before the Declaration of Independence, marrying his good wife, Silence Tuttle, in that same place from which so many of our finest people came, he found himself in Greenville in 1797. There on the same spot he lived for more than half a century. Five daughters and five sons sat at his table - all fair to look upon - and two of whom, the late Mitchell Sanford, 1821 Esq., and the Hon. Lyman Sanford, of Middleburgh, have distinguished themselves in the legal profession".

1831



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

ALBANY, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN REPLYING REFER TO

Altamont, N. Y., Jan 12, 1931.

Mr J. R. Brown,
27 West Erie St.,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Mr Brown:-

I entered the Govt. service in 1918, and since that date have resided in Altamont where your letter of the 8th instant was forwarded to me.

I am very much interested in Union College, as my son J. Albert Sanford is a very active member of the Class of 1931, and I am pleased to assist in obtaining the information requested regarding the late Mitchell Sanford. As nearly all the older members of the family have passed away who resided in this section, I am writing to George Sanford, No 115 North Secons St., Alhambra, Calif. He has almost a complete genealogy of the family, and if I am not in error, his father was a brother of Mitchell. I am also writing Sanford Martin of New Haven, Conn., who is a grandson of Mitchell's brother Lymon. In both cases I have asked for a prompt reply.

Enclosed is an extract taken from an address given at a memorial celebration, published in 1872, which furnished a bit of information.

Very truly yours,

John H. Sanford

Deputy Collector - Room 12-A, Federal Bld'g.

DEATH OF MITCHEL SANFORD.

Hon. Mitchel Sanford died in New York on Saturday, from an attack of neuralgia in the head, terminating in inflammation of the brain. He was engaged to appear in the Jay Gibbons case at Albany on Saturday. His friends telegraphed up that he was sick and the case must be postponed; in an hour afterwards, a second dispatch was received announcing his death. The event will cause a wide-spread and general expression of regret, for no man who practiced at the bar in this vicinity was more endeared to the community than Mr Sanford.

Although he never resided here, he had frequently visited us in the capacity of a speaker and lawyer, and by his genial nature and commanding talents endeared himself to all. It is about a month since he spent a couple of weeks here, and appeared hale and vigorous. It was then he remarked that he wanted "to die with the harness on," and the wish has been realized. His lectures in this city upon "Law," "Physic," "Love," and "Cobbler, stick to your last," were remarkable for their originality, common sense views of men and things, keenness of wit, and eloquent appeals to the heart. He appeared at almost every successive term of the Circuit Court in this city, and was engaged as counsel in many important causes. Whenever he spoke, he drew a crowd; nor was his reputation confined to Troy. In all the river counties he occupied a very prominent position as a lawyer. His circuit extended from New York city to many of the counties North of us. In his death the bar sustains an irreparable loss.

Mr Sanford was brought into public life by the political tornado of 1837, which in its general sweep overturned even the hitherto invincible Democratic majority of old Schoharie. He, with the venerable Jedediah Miller, was elected in that county to the Assembly. In 1839, he became a resident of Greene County, and was nominated and elected by the Whigs of the Third Senate district to fill a vacancy in the upper House. His term embraced only one session, but he served with distinction, ranking with the ablest members of the Senate.

Mr Sanford was not what is commonly termed a first class lawyer. Nor was his mind capable of grasping the dull, dry propositions of law which most legal gentlemen love to grapple with, and expend time and patience in unraveling. His power as a lawyer lay in his elequence - a look, a word, a sigh. As an orator, probably no man in this section equalled him; and his forensic triumphs appeared to have been gained not by calm preparation and deliberate care, but were the improvised results of an original mind, quick perceptions, a powerful mastery of the soul, and an inherent and all-absorbing sense of justice. Nothing could shake that. - Some of his best sayings were the ebullition of the moment, - bubbling up like jets of flaming gas, illuminating a dark case and oftentimes gaining it. An instance in point; During the last Circuit, in the

DEATH OF MITCHEL SANFORD (2)

trial of a suit against the Hudson River Railroad for damages, brought by the heirs of a person killed by the cars, the counsel for the railroad summing up his case incidentally remarked that he felt embarrassed. This slight and natural expression Mr S seized as the signal for one of his fiery shafts, and in his speech he alluded to the power of the Corporation, its legion of witnesses and other auxiliaries of strength, and expressed the opinion that it was not because of these the gentleman was embarrassed. "I can tell you why he is embarrassed," said Mr S.. "He can't look twelve honest men in the face and tell a lie to them. That's what embarrasses him." Said as only Sanford could say it, the remark was the turning point in the case; and the "embarrassed" lawyer, seeing the effect of it, turned to a friend with the remark - "The suit has gone to ².

He delighted in public speaking. It was his forte, and he loved it. He loved, too, notwithstanding all his kindness of heart, to cross blades with an opponent, and after flaying him alive, to see the poor wretch quiver and squirm beneath the hot strokes of his sarcasm or the withering glance of his eye. None were too high for him to hit; none too rich to purchase immunity from him. His control over an audience was wonderful. One moment Court, Jury, and spectators would be bathed in tears; the next, (and by the simplest transition) he would touch the magic wand of humor, and all would be convulsed with laughter. His appeals to the sensibilities of a jury were always irresistible, and those cases where the heart was to be touched, the secret springs of nature opened, he was most successful in. We remember a case of this character, where his opposing counsel, after hearing his plea in behalf of an injured girl, and being moved to tears himself by his eloquence, paid him the high but nevertheless deserving compliment of saying that "had he been on the jury, he would have given the girl a verdict of \$50,000. - the plea was worth it."

When Mr Sanford became aroused, every look, every gesture, was eloquent; and as he walked up and down before a jury, it seemed as if nature intended he should have been lame, for this defect in his walk added to rather than detract from his loftiness of carriage. His voice, too, was peculiar, and at will would swell with the grand cadence of the ocean, or fall like the dying notes of sweetest minstrelsy. Everything about him was natural, not to say picturesque; and he was what all the cultivation and the grace of the world cannot develop in any one - a natural orator.

Mr Sanford has never been reported, and consequently all his fine efforts are lost, except as they are preserved in the memory of those who were accustomed to hear him. A report, however, would do him no adequate justice, no more than the painter delineates the roar of Niagara when he pictures its falling waters. We remember some of his lighter flashes of wit, which we know will interest our readers. Last Fall, it will be remembered Mr Sanford "stumped" this county. One of Democratic speakers saw fit to arrange Mr Sanford for some of his speeches, and attacked him on several occasions. Mr Sanford was informed of the fact, and paid his respects to him as follows, during

DEATH OF MITCHEL SANFORD (3)

the delivery of a speech in Harmony Hall: "I understand," said Mr S., "that a young legal gentleman of this city, whom I do not know, has attacked me throughout the county for daring to come up here and talk politics to the people. I don't know him; I don't know how to deal with him. If I were called upon to storm a fortress, with its bastions and impregnable walls, I'd take a cannon, and thunder it down; if I wanted to shoot a deer, I'd take a Kentucky rifle, and drawing dead aim let him have it under the left shoulder; if I wanted to shoot a flock of pigeons I'd take a shotgun and blaze away at them; but if I wanted to kill a spider or a wasp, I'd take a squirt-gun and squirt it out; I would, by jiminy" The gentleman was left to draw his own inference as to the weapon used on him.

Our citizens will remember the ~~Ex-Frazer~~ Frazer rape case, which was tried here a couple of years since. Mitchel Sanford appeared for the plaintiff, and the opposing lawyer, Mr Tremaine, made a powerful argument against him. He charged that the plaintiff had entered into a conspiracy against Frazer, who was a cancer Doctor, of Lansingburgh. Mr S. replied to this somewhat as follows. After speaking of the sorrows of the woman, he addressed the jury, and said: "Talk about conspiracy. This poor, weak, frail woman concoct a conspiracy. Turned out of doors by her father; discarded by brothers and sisters, and sent out to buffet alone with ~~the~~ an uncharitable world, she conspire against this great, big cancer Doctor. The effect was electrical. One of the witnesses for the plaintiff in the same case was a believer in Spiritualism, and the opposite counsel attempted to discredit her statements on that account. Mr. S. replied, as near as we can recollect, as follows: "Spiritualism cannot be fathomed. There are spirits all around us. There are spirits flitting around the head of his honor, the Judge; spirits are hovering about the jury box and all over the court room. The Bible talks of spirits, and have you never read in that good book of the hosts of angelic spirits that people Heaven? The greatest men of this age have tried to fathom it, and couldn't comprehend it. God's ways are not as man's ways. I approach the subject with fear and trembling. We can't understand it. Often at night as I lay upon my bed, thoughts of my mother come up into my mind. Where do they come from? We can't understand it. And is this woman to be disbelieved because she can't comprehend it?" In the Frazer case, also, the opposing counsel charged that the plaintiff had told an untruth. Mr S. answered this by saying: "What if she ~~did~~ The circumstances justified it. Old Father Abraham, he lied when he went down into Egypt to buy corn, and told them the woman Sarah was his sister. What if he did lie? The circumstances justified it. He got down among those old cancer Doctors, and he expected to be killed."

Mr Sanford was one of the counsel employed in the trial of John Mooney, in this city, for arson in the first degree. The opposite counsel had remarked in the trial that the other side had lost their case. "The counsel says we've got a bad case," said Mr S. "He pitches into the Court; he pitches into the jury; he pitches into everybody - he's got hay on his horns."

We might continue these anecdotes indefinitely, but space forbids. Few men will be more missed from the bar of this county than Mr Sanford.



OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN REPLYING REFER TO

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

ALBANY, N.Y.

Altamont, N. Y., July 19, 1931.

Mr J. R. Brown,
27 West Erie St.,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Mr Brown:-

Recently a friend loaned a clipping, taken from the
Troy Daily Times of April 1, 1861, giving an account of the
death of Mitchel Sanford.

I had a copy made for you as it is possible that you
may wish to use certain extracts.

Truly yours,

John H. Sanford,
Altamont, N. Y.

Mitchell Sanford A.B. 1821

1821
Mitchell Sanford F.B.